Performance of special schemes in Maharashtra

5611. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed performance of special schemes, projects/programmes under implementation in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the past five years, scheme-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of shortcomings observed in implementation of these schemes; and

(d) the details of allocations make under each of the special schemes of rural development during the current year for Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

(d) Under the "Development of Rural Pilgrimage Places" programme, an outlay of Rs. 372.90 lakhs has been budgeted for "C" grade pilgrimage places in 28 districts and outlay of Rs. 130 lakhs has been budgeted for "B" grade pilgrimage places, during the year 2000-2001.

Incentive to State Governments

5612. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) that in view of declaration of 1999 as the year of 'Gram Sabha' what incentives Government have provided to the State Governments which have implemented the provisions of the 73rd amendment of the Indian Constitution both in letter and spirit ensuing decentralisation of power to the local bodies; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) While no such incentive was extended, as per the revised Guidelines for the employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), made applicable from 1st April, 1999, even as 80% of EAS funds may be released to the implementing agencies, as per normal procedures, the remaining 20% are to be released as an incentive if the State concerned has put in place elected and empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions. Empowerment of Gram Sabhas is at the core of empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions.